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## Turkey

**Post:** Ankara

### **Turkey Announces New Import Quota For Live Slaughter Cattle and Beef**

**Report Categories:**

Livestock and Products

Promotion Opportunities

Trade Policy Monitoring

Halal

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**Report Highlights:**

In response to high red meat prices, the Turkish Council of Ministers announced new import quotas for live slaughter cattle and beef on April 30, 2010. These quotas will be administered by the Meat and Fish Institute via public tenders. This decision was published in the Official Gazette on April 30, 2010.

The first public tender, for live cattle only, will take place on May 4, 2010. This tender, is for 4,025 MT of live slaughter cattle only from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary. Additional tenders, open to the United States and other countries, will be announced very soon.



### General Information:

High and rising red meat prices in Turkey have become an enormous economic and political problem. Retail prices for beef and sheep meat now exceed \$20/kg, as falling animal numbers and expensive feed reduce supply. Despite protectionist sentiments, the government made a decision this week to open the market to slaughter cattle and possibly beef in order to reduce prices. The last time Turkey imported any slaughter cattle or red meat was in 1998.

The Turkish Council of Ministers announced new import quotas for live slaughter cattle and beef on April 30, 2010. These quotas will be administered by the Meat and Fish Institute, a branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, via public tenders. This decision was published in the Official Gazette on April 30, 2010. Once a tender is completed, the Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade's General Directorate of Imports will issue import licenses under this quota.

According to the Meat and Fish Institute, this is not meant to be a long-term market opening but a one-time only intervention in order to bring down red meat prices. According to the Institute, additional tenders for live slaughter cattle will be announced by May 1 that will permit animals from other countries, including the United States, and that the lowest price offers that meet the technical criteria will be chosen. Additionally, Turkish inspectors will have to travel to the country of origin to select and inspect the cattle. Although the Meat and Fish Institute has been authorized to import meat as well, at first it plans to import only live animals, and will only consider importing meat at a later date if domestic prices do not decrease sufficiently. The Institute has stated it would only tender for carcasses, not boxed meat or cuts, and that Turkish inspectors would have to observe slaughtering practices to ensure the beef was halal.

**Table 1: Live slaughtering beef cattle and import tariff quota**

HS Codes	Product	Quantity (MT)	Tariff	Expiration of Tariff Quota
02.01	Cattle meat (Fresh or chilled)	7,500	25	December 31, 2010
0202	Cattle meat (Frozen)			
0102.90	Live cattle, Other	16,000	10	December 31, 2010

The first tender, for 4,025 MT of live slaughter cattle, will be held on May 4, 2010 at 10:00 am in the Meat and Fish Institute headquarters in Ankara. This tender will be open to domestic and foreign companies. According to the specifications for this tender, however, only live cattle from Estonia,

Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary are qualified for import. This will change in later tenders.

The technical specifications and tender requirements for the live slaughter cattle were published by the Meat and Fish Institute (EBK), at this time only in Turkish, at <http://www.ebk.gov.tr/default.asp> . The cattle must be Angus, Hereford, Swiss Brown, Holstein, Simmental or their cross breeds. The age of the animals must be between 16 and 28 months. The animals must be male, and weigh between 450 kg and 650 kg. The animals must bear visual characteristics of their own breed and have no visible problems with their feet, eyes, ears etc. The animals must all be identifiable through ear tags, microchips, etc.

The required documents for live slaughter cattle imports are:

- Original invoice
- Pro forma invoice
- Original official veterinary health certificate
- Sample of pro forma health certificate
- Certificate of origin
- Test and analysis results
- Pedigree certificate

FAS Ankara will provide additional information as it becomes available.